



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

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Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

16 July 2009

Pest Patrol Hotline

A summary of current problems with insects is available this season via a toll-free hotline. Simply call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Cotton Situation

As of 12 July 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 70% squaring, ahead of where we were last year at 55% but just ahead the 5-yr average of 67%. About 9% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with about 11% this time last year and 14% for the 5-yr average. Conditions were described as 1% excellent, 55% good, 44% fair, and 0% poor or very poor for the crop. Recent rains have certainly helped but it is getting dry again. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Situation

As of 12 July 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 98% of soybeans emerged, ahead of where the crop was this time last year at 90% and about equal to the 5-yr average emergence of 96%. About 6% of the crop is reported to be blooming, behind where we were last year at 10% and the 5-yr average of 15%. About 1% of the crop is setting pods, about where we were last year (2%) and for the 5-yr average (3%). Conditions were described as 0% excellent, 54% good, 44% fair, and 2% poor. The crop needs more rain. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

News from Above the Lakes

No news to report this week. Please email or call me with your observations and comments by Wednesday!

News from Below the Lakes

Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties, reported that he is seeing levels of boll injury above threshold in early-planted cotton that is in the 3rd or 4th week of bloom. A local consultant also reported that everything that he checked on Monday needed to be sprayed.

2009 SC Cotton Growers' Guide, Pest Management Handbook, and Insect Control Guides

The 2009 South Carolina Cotton Growers' Guide is available from your local county office in paper copy or online at: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/EC589.PDF>.

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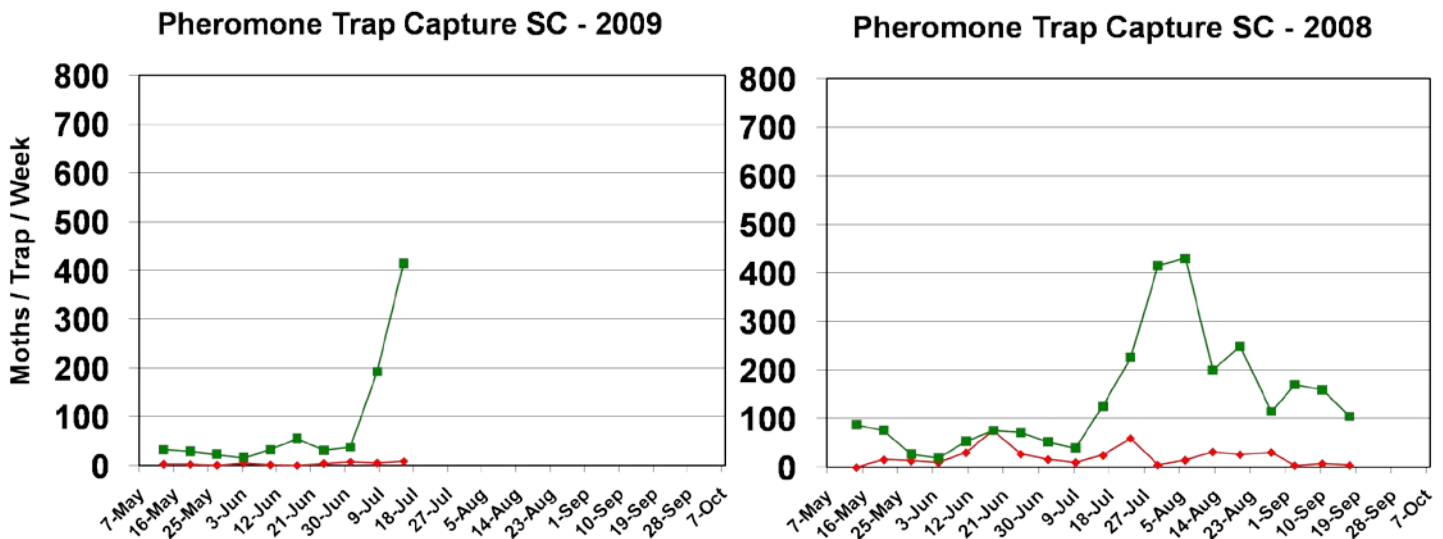
The 2009 Pest Management Handbook is available in limited quantities. Contact your local county office for availability. A \$10 fee might be charged for the handbook. You can also download the handbook from: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Clemson University Publications IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) and SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) are available free from your local county office in paper copy or online at: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF> and <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. We trapped about 415 BW and 9 TBW moths per trap this past week. Captures of BW moths have dramatically increased again. Numbers from the last week are as high as our peak captures from last year. I expect those numbers to increase again this week.



Great care should be taken right now with insecticide applications for stink bugs because of the imminent pressure from bollworm. Some of our counts of bollworm eggs yesterday were running less than 10 eggs/100 plants, but that will quickly increase with the recent activity in our pheromone traps. In past years, we have exacerbated problems with bollworm in ANY type of cotton (non-Bt, Bollgard, Bollgard II, WideStrike, etc.) with applications of broad-spectrum insecticides, specifically the organophosphates (OPs) (i.e. acephate [Orthene], dicrotophos [Bidrin], methyl parathion, etc.), immediately before the large “flight” of bollworm out



of corn. Although the OPs are extremely effective in controlling stink bugs, I recommend reserving the use of that class of chemistry until later in the season. That class of chemistry has little if no activity on bollworm, and it decimates populations of beneficial arthropods that aid in controlling bollworm. If it is 100% necessary to spray for stink bugs right now, use a pyrethroid insecticide because pyrethroids have good activity on larvae AND eggs of bollworm as well as good activity on most species of stink bugs. Because residual control of stink bugs and bollworm is longer with the pyrethroids than with the OPs, pyrethroids are the best materials to use right now. Keep in mind that we are always concerned about resistance development to the pyrethroids because of the extensive use of that chemistry, so use these insecticides wisely.

Need More Information?

Log on to the following webpage to view important recommendations for cotton and soybean insect management, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Associate Professor – Entomologist



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